

suffused as in *reducta*; two feint, paler, wavy cross-lines can be traced, one medial and the other submarginal; termen, a paler line edged proximally with paler dots at the nervure ends. Fringe, pale grey. Hindwing paler than in *reducta* female, with grey cell-spot, and with feint traces of a pale submarginal line.

Female genitalia : anal papillae longer and more acute than in those of *reducta*, the ostium and ductus bursae more sclerotised. Bursa copulatrix, long oval, with two medial distally-located transverse linear signa in the form of a scobinated ridge. There are also some less sclerotised longitudinal wrinkles with incipient spiculation.

HOLOTYPE female (Prep. WBM. 373): Abyssinia, Dire-dawa, iv.1936, (H. Uhlenhuth) in British Museum (Natural History). The unique type was taken together with many *E. reducta*, with which it remained confused for years.

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CERAMICA PISI L. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) : LARVAL FOOD-PLANT PREFERENCES —Most of the textbooks cite a number of larval foodplants for this moth, but rarely local preferences. Useful and interesting detail appears in J. Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent* 2, 1968) and L. and K. Evans (*A Survey of the Macro-lepidoptera of Croydon and N. E. Surrey*, 1973), and surely such works are those in which such information should appear. Perusal of some of the local Lepidoptera lists which have appeared in recent years proved disappointing, such knowledge being absent or even in some cases a matter of guesswork and fiction!

I became acquainted with *pisi* larvae in the 1930s on Dartford Heath, Kent where I found them commonly upon broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and bracken (*Pteris aquilina*); later I found them defoliating small birches (*Betula sp.*) on waste ground adjacent to Dartford Heath where bracken and broom were absent, and feeding on sea aster (*Aster tripolium*) in some numbers on the Dartford Marshes. On July 31st 1987 near Rinnamona in the Burren of Co. Clare I found the larvae not uncommonly upon bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*), and despite searching, none upon scabious, bracken or other plants growing in the vicinity. On August 3rd more were found on bog myrtle, but on no other plants, near Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. Regarding the Burren, bog myrtle is a very local plant, but *C. pisi* is widespread, so what preference does it have elsewhere in that region I wonder? — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Darfford, Kent.